R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS _____

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the control unit is configured to perform a first initialization which is necessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed state, start the driving of the movable optical system from the housed state, and then start performing of a second initialization without waiting for the movable optical system to reach an intermediate position between the housed state and a state in which photographing can be performed, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 15, lines 20-25 and page 18, lines 4-11. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 11.

New claim 24, which depends from claim 11, has been added to recite that the state in which photographing can be performed comprises a wide end position of the movable optical system, and that the control unit is configured to start performing of the second initialization after starting the driving of the movable optical system and without waiting for the movable optical system to reach the wide end position, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 26 to page 15,

line 19 (the "target position" is the "Wide end" position, as described at page 15, lines 6-8).

New claims 25 and 26, moreover, are based on new claim 24 and depend from claims 22 and 23, respectively.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 11, 14, 16-18, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2001/0009443 ("Suemoto et al"); claims 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Suemoto et al; and claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Suemoto et al and USP 6,341,201 ("Ishiguro et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to amended independent claim 11, the control unit is configured to perform a first initialization which is necessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed state, start the driving of the movable optical system from the housed state, and <u>then start performing of a second initialization without waiting for the movable optical system to reach an intermediate position between the housed state and a state in which photographing can be performed</u>, the second

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initialization being unnecessary to drive the movable optical
system from the housed state.

Accordingly, even if the first initialization requires
reading of an initialization program, it is possible to quickly
start the second initialization so that it is possible to reduce
the starting time of the camera (e.g., electronic still camera).

Suemoto et al discloses performing a first a first
initialization processing which is necessary for driving the
optical system from the housed state, such as a lens cover
opening processing, and then driving the optical system (see
Fig. 8). However, according to Suemoto et al, a second
initialization processing which is not necessary for driving the
optical system is performed _after_ the optical system reaches a
state in which photographing can be performed (the tele end
position, see steps 223-234 in Fig. 8B of Suemoto et al).

Thus, according to Suemoto et al, the second initialization
processing is not be started until the movable optical system
reaches the state in which photographing can be performed.
Accordingly, start of the second initialization processing is
delayed, and it is not possible to quickly complete the second
initialization and to reduce the starting time of the electronic
still camera. Moreover, if the first initialization requires
reading of the initialization program, the first initialization
may not be completed even if the movable optical system reaches

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the state in which photographing can be performed. In this case,
it is not possible to start the second initialization even if the
movable optical system reaches the state in which photographing
can be performed, and the start of the second initialization is
further delayed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto et al
does not disclose, teach or suggest the features recited in
amended independent claim 11 whereby the control unit is
configured to perform a first initialization which is necessary
to drive the movable optical system from the housed state, start
the driving of the movable optical system from the housed state,
and then start performing of a second initialization without
waiting for the movable optical system to reach an intermediate
position between the housed state and a state in which
photographing can be performed, the second initialization being
unnecessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed
state.

Ishiguro et al also fails to disclose, teach or suggest
these features of amended independent claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended
independent claim 11, and all of the claims depending therefrom,
clearly patentably distinguish over Suemoto et al and Ishiguro et
al, taken singly or in combination under 35 USC 103.

And for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 22 and 23, and claims 25 and 26 respectively depending therefrom, also clearly patentably distinguish over Suemoto et al and Ishiguro et al, taken singly or in combination under 35 USC 103.

* *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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